

# JAN MORRILL



## AUTHOR & SPEAKER



### BIO

Jan Morrill was born and raised in California. Her mother, a Buddhist Japanese American, was an internee during World War II. Her father, a Southern Baptist redhead of Irish descent, retired from the Air Force.

Her novel, *The Red Kimono* (University of Arkansas Press, February 2013), her children's book, *The Magical Red Kimono* (Solander Press, April 2025), and many of her short stories, reflect memories of growing up in a multicultural, multi-religious, multi-political environment.

### SYNOPSIS OF THE RED KIMONO

In 1941, racial tensions are rising in the California community where nine-year-old Sachiko Kimura and her seventeen-year old brother, Nobu, live. When Japan attacks Pearl Harbor, anger erupts.

One afternoon, Sachi and Nobu witness three teenage boys taunting and beating their father in the park.

Sachi especially remembers Terrence Harris, the boy with dark skin and hazel eyes. Nobu cannot believe he once considered the boys capable of such violence toward his father as friends.

As these three young Americans—Sachi, Nobu and Terrence—spend years behind bars and barbed wire, one will learn acceptance, one will seek a path to forgiveness, and one will remain imprisoned by resentment.



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"*The Red Kimono* tells it all—the bitterness and pain as well as the joy, pride and patriotism of a people too resilient to be beaten by racism." ~ **Sandra Dallas, New York Times bestselling author of *Tallgrass***

"Morrill enriches her narrative with accurate cultural values and the everyday details of the American concentration camp experience that bring the era to vivid life. Both heartbreaking and inspirational." ~ **Gil Asakawa, author of *Being Japanese American* and the blog, [www.nikkeiview.com](http://www.nikkeiview.com).**

"...sensitive, bold and creative; the truth of the experiences herein is nothing less than astonishing and refuses to truck with clichés or easy solutions. This is one of the best books this reviewer has read in years!" ~ **Historical Novel Society Editor's Choice**

### SPEAKING TOPICS

- Reflections on the Japanese American Internment
- Haiku: The Power of Seventeen Syllables
- Book Club Discussion of *The Red Kimono*
- Creative Characterization for Writers



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